

REMARKS

In the non-final 10 April 2006 *Office Action*, the Examiner rejects Claims 8-17 and objects to Claim 14. Applicants thank the Examiner with appreciation for the careful consideration and examination given to the Present Application and also for the courtesy extended to the undersigned for the recent 17 May 2006 interview.

After entry of this Response, Claims 8-17 are pending in the Present Application. Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 8-17 are allowable or in the alternative require an Interference Proceeding be invoked as discussed below. Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 8-17 do not introduce new matter into the Present Application and are supported by Applicants' originally-filed *Specification* as detailed below.

I. Interview Summary Pursuant to MPEP § 713.04

The undersigned participated in an interview with Examiners Alvin A. Hunter and Stephen Blau on 17 May 2006 to discuss the Present Application and the 10 April 2006 *Office Action*. During the interview, Application Number 11/144,270 ("the '270 Application") was discussed in relation to the Present Application for interference purposes. As discussed during the interview, Applicants provide this response to invoke an Interference Proceeding with the '270 Application. If for any reason the Examiner does not consider the foregoing record complete and accurate, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

II. An Interference Is Proper and Should Be Invoked Because the Present Application and The '270 Application Claim the Same Patentable Invention

Applicants presented Claims 8-17 of the Present Application in the previous 20 December 2005 Response to provoke an interference with the '270 Application. An interference proceeding, however, was not initiated. Rather, the Examiner issued several rejections to Claims 8-17. Currently pending Claims 8-17 are exactly identical to Claims 20 – 28 and 37 in the '270 Application, which were recently allowed.¹ Thus, the Present Application and the '270 Application claim the same patentable invention (in accordance with MPEP § 2301.03) that was recently allowed in the '270 Application thereby providing appropriate grounds for initiating an Interference Proceeding. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that an Interference

¹ See 30 March 2006 *Notice of Allowance* issued by Examiner Sebastiano Passinitti in the '270 Application. A 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 Amendment was submitted along with the appropriate fees on 6 May 2006 in the '270 Application. To date, Examiner Passinitti appears not to have entered the Rule 312 Amendment, which only seeks to amend the '270 Application's Abstract and does not introduce any claim amendments.

Proceeding be initiated between the Present Application and the '270 Application. Should an Interference Proceeding not be initiated, Applicants' respectfully request that the '270 Application be withdrawn from issuance so that the two applications are examined with consistency.

Along with Applicants' present request for an interference, Applicants' provide information pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.202 ("Rule 202") that is required for Applicants' Interference Proceeding suggestion. As Rule 202 provides, Applicants' Interference suggestion must provide the following information:

(A) Provide sufficient information to identify the application or patent with which the applicant seeks an interference;

(B) Identify all claims the applicant believes interfere, propose one or more counts, and show how the claims correspond to one or more counts;

(C) For each count, provide a claim chart comparing at least one claim of each party corresponding to the count and show why the claims interfere within the meaning of 37 C.F.R. § 41.203(a);

(D) Explain in detail why the applicant will prevail on priority;

(E) If a claim has been added or amended to provoke an interference, provide a claim chart showing the written description for each claim in the applicant's specification; and

(F) For each constructive reduction to practice for which the applicant wishes to be accorded benefit, provide a chart showing where the disclosure provides a constructive reduction to practice within the scope of the interfering subject matter.

Applicants provide this required information below and believe that the below information satisfies Rule 202's formal submission requirements. If the Examiner deems that Applicants' have not satisfied Rule 202's submission requirements, Applicants respectfully request an opportunity to supplement this submission pursuant to MPEP § 2304.02.

A. Identity of The Application For Which Applicants Seek An Interference

Applicants seek an Interference with Application Number 11/144,270 ("the '270 Application"). The '270 Application is directed toward a golf club head, was filed on 2 June 2005, and is a continuation of Application Number 10/634,023, which is a continuation-in-part of Application Number 10/316,453. Claims 20-37, currently pending in the '270 Application, were recently allowed in a 30 March 2006 *Notice of Allowance*.

B. Identity of Interfering Claims, Proposed Counts, & Comparison of Claims and Proposed Counts

As mentioned above, Applicants added Claims 8-17 to the Present Application in a previous response to provoke an interference with the '270 Application. Claims 8-17 are identical to Claims 20 – 28 and 37 in the '270 Application. Thus, Claims 20-28 and 37 of the '270 Application interfere with Claims 8-17 of the Present Application. In support of Applicants' interference request, Applicants propose the following two counts and show below how the Claims correspond to the proposed counts as defined by 37 C.F.R. § 41.207(b)(2). It is believed that the two proposed counts describe patentably distinct inventions as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 41.201.

Proposed Counts

Count 1:

A wood-type golf club head comprising:
a sole;
a striking plate;
a side section extending rearward of the striking plate and having toe, rear, and heel regions;
a top portion having an upper opening formed therein;
a shoulder disposed around a periphery of the upper opening;
a ledge extending from the shoulder towards a center portion of the upper opening;
a crown coupled to the ledge and having a side edge, wherein the side edge of the crown is disposed proximate to the shoulder; and
a veil disposed between the side edge of the crown and the shoulder.

Count 2:

A wood-type golf club head comprising:
a sole;
a striking plate;
a side section extending rearward of the striking plate and having toe, rear, and heel regions;
a top portion having an upper opening formed therein;
a shoulder disposed around a periphery of the upper opening;
a ledge extending from the shoulder towards a center portion of the upper opening;
a crown coupled to the ledge and having a side edge, wherein the side edge of the crown is disposed proximate to the shoulder, thereby forming an obtuse depression therebetween;
and
a means for filling at least a portion of the obtuse depression and preventing cracking and peeling of a club head surface layer.

Showing of How the Claims Correspond to the Proposed Counts

The Present Application: Claim 8 of the Present Application is identical to proposed Count 1, thus Claim 8 corresponds exactly to the first proposed count. Also, Claims 9-16 depend from Claim 8 of the Present Application, which is identical to proposed Count 1, thus Claims 9-16 also correspond to the first proposed count. Claim 17 of the Present Application is identical to proposed Count 2, thus Claim 17 corresponds exactly to the second proposed count.

The '270 Application: Allowed Claim 20 of the '270 Application is identical to proposed Count 1, thus Claim 20 corresponds exactly to the first proposed count. Also, Claims 21-28 depend from Claim 20 of the '270 Application, which is identical to proposed Count 1, thus Claims 21-28 also correspond to the first proposed count. Allowed Claim 37 of the '270 Application is identical to proposed Count 2, thus Claim 37 corresponds exactly to the second proposed count.

“A claim corresponds to a count if the subject matter of the count, treated as prior art to the claim, would have anticipated or rendered obvious the subject matter of the claim.” 37 C.F.R. § 41.207(b)(2). The language of proposed Counts 1 and 2 is identical to Claims 8 and 17 of the Present Application, respectively. Similarly, the language of proposed Counts 1 and 2 is identical to Claims 20 and 37 of the '270 Application, respectively. Thus, if the subject matter of proposed Counts 1 and 2 was treated as prior art to Claims 8 and 17 (of the Present Application) and Claims 20 and 37 (of the '270 Application), then the subject matter of Counts 1 and 2 would have anticipated or rendered obvious the subject matter of the Claims 8 and 17 (of the Present Application) and Claims 20 and 37 (of the '270 Application). Accordingly, Applicants believe that proposed Counts 1 and 2 correspond to Claims 8-17 of the Present Application and Claims 20-28 and 37 of the '270 Application.

C. Claim Chart Presentation and Explanation How Claims Interfere According to 37 C.F.R. § 41.203

In accordance with Rule 202, Applicants provide the below claim charts comparing at least one claim of each party corresponding to the above proposed counts and Applicants also show why the claims interfere. Applicants provide claim charts for the interfering independent claims associated with the Present Application and the '270 Application and proposed Counts 1 and 2.

| Text of Proposed Count 1 | Text of Claim 8 Pending in the Present Application | Text of Claim 20 Allowed in the '270 Application |
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| 1. A wood-type golf club head comprising: | 8. A wood-type golf club head comprising: | 20. A wood-type golf club head comprising: |
| a sole; | a sole; | a sole; |
| a striking plate; | a striking plate; | a striking plate; |
| a side section extending rearward of the striking plate and having toe, rear, and heel regions; | a side section extending rearward of the striking plate and having toe, rear, and heel regions; | a side section extending rearward of the striking plate and having toe, rear, and heel regions; |
| a top portion having an upper opening formed therein; | a top portion having an upper opening formed therein; | a top portion having an upper opening formed therein; |
| a shoulder disposed around a periphery of the upper opening; | a shoulder disposed around a periphery of the upper opening; | a shoulder disposed around a periphery of the upper opening; |
| a ledge extending from the shoulder towards a center portion of the upper opening; | a ledge extending from the shoulder towards a center portion of the upper opening; | a ledge extending from the shoulder towards a center portion of the upper opening; |
| a crown coupled to the ledge and having a side edge, wherein the side edge of the crown is disposed proximate to the shoulder; and | a crown coupled to the ledge and having a side edge, wherein the side edge of the crown is disposed proximate to the shoulder; and | a crown coupled to the ledge and having a side edge, wherein the side edge of the crown is disposed proximate to the shoulder; and |
| a veil disposed between the side edge of the crown and the shoulder. | a veil disposed between the side edge of the crown and the shoulder. | a veil disposed between the side edge of the crown and the shoulder. |

| Text of Proposed Count 2 | Text of Claim 17 Pending in the Present Application | Text of Claim 37 Allowed in the '270 Application |
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| 2. A wood-type golf club head comprising: | 17. A wood-type golf club head comprising: | 37. A wood-type golf club head comprising: |
| a sole; | a sole; | a sole; |
| a striking plate; | a striking plate; | a striking plate; |
| a side section extending rearward of the striking plate and having toe, rear, and heel regions; | a side section extending rearward of the striking plate and having toe, rear, and heel regions; | a side section extending rearward of the striking plate and having toe, rear, and heel regions; |
| a top portion having an upper opening formed therein; | a top portion having an upper opening formed therein; | a top portion having an upper opening formed therein; |
| a shoulder disposed around a | a shoulder disposed around a | a shoulder disposed around a |

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| periphery of the upper opening; | periphery of the upper opening; | periphery of the upper opening; |
| a ledge extending from the shoulder towards a center portion of the upper opening; | a ledge extending from the shoulder towards a center portion of the upper opening; | a ledge extending from the shoulder towards a center portion of the upper opening; |
| a crown coupled to the ledge and having a side edge, wherein the side edge of the crown is disposed proximate to the shoulder, thereby forming an obtuse depression therebetween; and | a crown coupled to the ledge and having a side edge, wherein the side edge of the crown is disposed proximate to the shoulder, thereby forming an obtuse depression therebetween; and | a crown coupled to the ledge and having a side edge, wherein the side edge of the crown is disposed proximate to the shoulder, thereby forming an obtuse depression therebetween; and |
| a means for filling at least a portion of the obtuse depression and preventing cracking and peeling of a club head surface layer. | a means for filling at least a portion of the obtuse depression and preventing cracking and peeling of a club head surface layer. | a means for filling at least a portion of the obtuse depression and preventing cracking and peeling of a club head surface layer. |

Applicants respectfully submit that the above listed claims interfere in accordance 37 C.F.R. § 41.203(a) (“Rule 203”). Rule 203 provides that an interference exists “if the subject matter of a claim of one party would, if prior art, have anticipated or rendered obvious the subject matter of a claim of the opposing party and vice versa.” As shown above, Claims 8 and 17 of the Present Application are identical to Claims 20 and 37 in the ‘270 Application. Thus, the subject matter of Claims 8 and 17 taken as prior art to Claims 20 and 37, respectively, would render Claims 20 and 37 as unpatentable and vice versa in accordance with Rule 403’s two-way unpatentability test. The same conclusion is reached with Claims 9-16 of the Present Application and Claims 21-28 of the ‘270 Applications since these claims recite identical language. In addition, Claims 8-17 and 20-28 and 37 claim patentably indistinct inventions. Applicants, therefore, respectfully assert that an interference exists between Claims 8-17 in the Present Application and Claims 20-28 and 37 in the ‘270 Application.

D. Explanation of How Applicants Prevail on Priority over the ‘270 Application

Applicants respectfully assert that Applicants prevail on priority over the ‘270 Application. The Present Application has a 2 December 2003 filing date. Applicants filed the Present Application with a priority claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to Japanese Patent Application No. JP2002-349443 (“priority application”) filed on 2 December 2002. Thus, the Present Application has an effective filing date of 2 December 2002.

Applicants recently perfected the 2 December 2002 priority claim and the Examiner acknowledged Applicants' priority claim in the 10 April 2006 *Office Action*.² On 24 March 2006, Applicants submitted a certified copy of Applicants' priority application, a translation of the priority application, and a declaration verifying that the translation of the certified copy of the priority application is accurate. Accordingly, Applicants have perfected the priority claim for the Present Application and, thus it is entitled to a 2 December 2002 effective filing date.

The Present Application has an earlier effective filing date than the earliest effective filing date of the '270 Application. As detailed above, Applicants are entitled to an effective filing date of 2 December 2002. The '270 Application was filed on 2 June 2005 and is a continuation of Application Number 10/634,023 ("the CIP Application") filed on 4 August 2003. The CIP Application is a continuation-in-part of Application Number 10/316,453 ("the '453 Application") filed on 11 December 2002.

The currently allowed claims of the '270 Application are not fully supported by the disclosure of the '453 Application. Indeed, some of the subject matter appearing in the allowed claims of the '270 Application first appeared in the CIP Application. Thus, this subject matter only receives an earliest filing date of 4 August 2003. Since Applicants' effective filing date of 2 December 2003 is eight months earlier than 4 August 2003, Applicants will prevail on priority over the '270 Application. In addition, by virtue of having the earliest filing date, Applicants should be given Senior Party status in an Interference Proceeding between the Present Application and the '270 Application and thus provided the Senior Party presumptions in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 41.207.

E. Claim Chart Showing Written Description Support for Claims 8-17 In Applicants' Specification

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 8-17 pending in the Present Application are fully supported by Applicants' originally-filed *Specification*. Applicants respectfully assert that at least the below-listed portions of Applicants' originally-filed *Specification* fully disclose and support the subject matter recited in Claims 8-17.³

² See 10 April 2006 Office Action Summary Form. Checkbox Number 12 is checked indicating the Examiner's full acknowledgement of Applicants' foreign priority claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119.

³ Applicants cite to Page and Line locations when citing to the *Specification* filed on 12 December 2003 in the below chart.

| Claim Text | Supporting Portions of Applicants' Specification |
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| 8. A wood-type golf club head comprising: | <p>FIGS. 1-2 & 8-9</p> <p>Page 1, Lines 10-19: "The 'surface material' refers to a member which forms the surface of a section in which the golf club head is located while it is integrated with this head main body, this surface material constructing a crown part or a back side face and being formed of metallic material or fiber reinforced resin material."</p> <p>Page 27, Lines 2-5: "The head main body 10A and surface material 10B constitute the golf club of so-called driver."</p> |
| a sole; | <p>FIGS. 1-2</p> <p>Page 9, Lines 16-25: "As shown in FIGS. 1(a) and (b), the golf club head 1 of the present invention comprises a face section 2 used for striking a golf ball, a crown section 3 which constitutes a top face of the golf club head 1, a sole section 4 which constitutes the bottom face of the golf club head 1, a side section 8 which is extended from a toe side 5 to a heel side 7 via a back side 6 between the crown section 3 and the sole section 4 and a hosel section 9 on which a golf shaft is mounted. The face section 2, the sole section 4 and the hosel section 9 constitute the head main body 10A mentioned in the present invention and the crown section 3 and the side section 8 constitute the surface material 10B mentioned in the present invention."</p> |
| a striking plate; | FIGS. 1-2; Page 9, Lines 16-25 (same as above) |
| a side section extending rearward of the striking plate and having toe, rear, and heel regions; | FIGS. 1-2; Page 9, Lines 16-25 (same as above) |
| a top portion having an upper opening formed therein; | <p>FIGS. 1-3 & 8</p> <p>Page 6, Lines 2-10: "The surface material refers to a member which is integrated with the head main body and covers or forms the surface of a section in which the golf club head is located, for example, the crown part 12 shown in FIG. 2 or FIG. 8 or the bottom face of the head main body shown in FIG. 10 and formed of metallic material such as titan, stainless steel, aluminum or fiber reinforced resin material."</p> <p>Page 12, Lines 5-10: "Further, the golf club head of the present invention is not restricted to the separation construction of the head main body 10A and the surface material 10B described in the above</p> |

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| | described embodiment. The present invention can be applied to the joining section of both members in any separation construction if the golf club head is produced by joining the head main body 10A with the surface material 10B together.” Page 27, Lines 6-10: “The head main body 10A is composed of the above-described face/sole integrated part 11 made of metal and has a space inside while an opening 11a is formed in its top face. The surface material 10B is formed of fiber reinforced resin material using carbon fiber into a sheet-like part which can cover the opening 11a of the head main body 10A.” |
| a shoulder disposed around a periphery of the upper opening; | FIGS. 8-9 and Page 27, Line 1 – Page 29, Line 25 disclose a shoulder disposed around the periphery of the opening. |
| a ledge extending from the shoulder towards a center portion of the upper opening; | FIGS. 8-9 and Page 27, Line 1 – Page 29, Line 25 disclose a ledge extending from the shoulder to a center portion of the opening. |
| a crown coupled to the ledge and having a side edge, wherein the side edge of the crown is disposed proximate to the shoulder; and | FIGS. 8-9; Page 6, Lines 2-10; and Page 27, Line 1 – Page 29 disclose a crown coupled to the ledge and a side edge of the crown proximate the shoulder. |
| a veil disposed between the side edge of the crown and the shoulder. | FIGS. 8-9 and Page 27, Line 1 – Page 29, Line 25 disclose a veil (joint material) disposed between a side edge of the crown and the shoulder. |

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| 9. The golf club head of claim 8, wherein at least one of the side edge of the crown and the shoulder are tapered. | FIG. 9; Page 28, Lines 16-22: “The groove 18 needs to be formed on only a necessary section in the joining area between the head main body 10A and the surface material 10B. The groove 18 is not restricted to a configuration which is spread upward as shown in FIG. 9(a), but may be formed by the vertical face 18a of the head main body 10A and the oblique face 18a of the surface material 10B as shown in FIG. 9(b) or by the oblique face 18a of the head main body 10A and the vertical face 18b of the surface material 10B as shown in FIG. 9(c).” |
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| 10. The golf club head of claim 8, wherein both the side edge of the crown and the shoulder are tapered. | FIG. 9(a) illustrates that a side edge of the crown and the shoulder are tapered. |
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| 11. The golf club head of claim 10, wherein the side edge of the crown and the shoulder define an angle greater than about 90 degrees and less | FIGS. 4 and 9; Page 11, Lines 1-14; and Page 28, Lines 16-22 disclose a side edge of the crown and the shoulder defining a spread angle between 90 |
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| than about 180 degrees. | degrees and 180 degrees. |
| 12. The golf club head of claim 8, wherein the veil is comprised of a composite material. | Page 12, Line 20–Page 13, Line 5 discloses a veil (joint material) that can be made from a composite material (e.g., a fiber reinforced resin material). |
| 13. The golf club head of claim 8, wherein the crown is comprised of a first material and the veil is comprised of a second material. | Page 1, Lines 15-19 and Page 6, Lines 6-10 disclose a crown made of metal. Page 12, Lines 20-24 disclose a veil (joint material) made of numerous non-metal members (e.g., glass fiber). |
| 14. The golf club head of claim 13, wherein the first material is carbon fiber and the second material is glass. | Page 27, Lines 8-10 disclose a crown made of carbon fiber. Page 12, Lines 20-24 disclose a veil (joint material) made of glass fiber. |
| 15. The golf club head of claim 8, wherein the crown and the veil are comprised of the same material. | Page 10, Lines 5-6 disclose crown made of “fiber reinforced resin material.” Page 10, Lines 18-19 also disclose a veil (joint material) made of “fiber reinforced resin material.” |
| 16. The golf club head of claim 8, wherein the veil covers an entire side edge of the crown. | FIG. 4 and Page 10, Lines 19-25 disclose that a veil (joint material) can cover an entire side edge of the crown. |
| 17. A wood-type golf club head comprising: | FIGS. 1-2 & 8-9 Page 1, Lines 10-19: “The ‘surface material’ refers to a member which forms the surface of a section in which the golf club head is located while it is integrated with this head main body, this surface material constructing a crown part or a back side face and being formed of metallic material or fiber reinforced resin material.” Page 27, Lines 2-5: “The head main body 10A and surface material 10B constitute the golf club of so-called driver.” |
| a sole; | FIGS. 1-2 Page 9, Lines 16-25: “As shown in FIGS. 1(a) and (b), the golf club head 1 of the present invention comprises a face section 2 used for striking a golf ball, a crown section 3 which constitutes a top face of the gold club head 1, a sole section 4 which constitutes the bottom face of the golf club head 1, a side section 8 which is extended from a toe side 5 to a heel side 7 via a back side 6 between the crown section 3 and the sole section 4 and a hosel section 9 on which a golf shaft is mounted. The face |

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| | section 2, the sole section 4 and the hosel section 9 constitute the head main body 10A mentioned in the present invention and the crown section 3 and the side section 8 constitute the surface material 10B mentioned in the present invention.” |
| a striking plate; | FIGS. 1-2; Page 9, Lines 16-25 (same as above) |
| a side section extending rearward of the striking plate and having toe, rear, and heel regions; | FIGS. 1-2; Page 9, Lines 16-25 (same as above) |
| a top portion having an upper opening formed therein; | FIGS. 1-3 & 8 Page 6, Lines 2-10: “The surface material refers to a member which is integrated with the head main body and covers or forms the surface of a section in which the golf club head is located, for example, the crown part 12 shown in FIG. 2 or FIG. 8 or the bottom face of the head main body shown in FIG. 10 and formed of metallic material such as titan, stainless steel, aluminum or fiber reinforced resin material.” Page 12, Lines 5-10: “Further, the golf club head of the present invention is not restricted to the separation construction of the head main body 10A and the surface material 10B described in the above described embodiment. The present invention can be applied to the joining section of both members in any separation construction if the golf club head is produced by joining the head main body 10A with the surface material 10B together.” Page 27, Lines 6-10: “The head main body 10A is composed of the above-described face/sole integrated part 11 made of metal and has a space inside while an opening 11a is formed in its top face. The surface material 10B is formed of fiber reinforced resin material using carbon fiber into a sheet-like part which can cover the opening 11a of the head main body 10A.” |
| a shoulder disposed around a periphery of the upper opening; | FIGS. 8-9 and Page 27, Line 1 – Page 29, Line 25 disclose a shoulder disposed around the periphery of the opening. |
| a ledge extending from the shoulder towards a center portion of the upper opening; | FIGS. 8-9 and Page 27, Line 1 – Page 29, Line 25 disclose a ledge extending from the shoulder to a center portion of the opening. |
| a crown coupled to the ledge and having a side edge, wherein the side edge of the crown is disposed proximate to the shoulder, thereby forming an obtuse depression therebetween; and | FIGS. 8-9; Page 6, Lines 2-10; and Page 27, Line 1 – Page 29 disclose a crown coupled to the ledge and a side edge of the crown proximate the shoulder. |

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| | FIGS. 4 and 9; Page 11, Lines 1-14; and Page 28, Lines 16-22 disclose an obtuse depression (between 90 degrees and 180 degrees) formed between a side edge of the crown and the shoulder. |
| a means for filling at least a portion of the obtuse depression and preventing cracking and peeling of a club head surface layer. | FIGS. 8-9 and Page 27, Line 1 – Page 29, Line 25 disclose a veil (joint material) disposed between a side edge of the crown and the shoulder. As discussed throughout the Applicants' <i>Specification</i> , the veil (joint material) is used to strengthen a bond between the crown and the shoulder to prevent "occurrence of deviation, gap and crevices" thereby preventing cracking and peeling of a club head surface layer. Page 26, Lines 19-21; <i>see also</i> Page 5, Lines 16-20 and Page 32, Lines 1-10. |

F. Chart Showing Disclosure Providing Constructive Reduction To Practice Within Scope of Interfering Subject Matter

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 8-17 pending in the Present Application are fully supported by Applicants' priority application. Applicants respectfully assert that at least the below-listed portions of Applicants' priority application fully disclose and support the subject matter recited in Claims 8-17, thereby entitling Applicants to a 2 December 2002 effective filing date.⁴

| Claim Text | Supporting Portions of Applicants' Priority Application |
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| 8. A wood-type golf club head comprising: | FIGS. 1-2 & 8 show a wood-type golf club head. Page 8, Lines 9-14: "As shown in FIGS. 1, the golf club head 1 of the present invention comprises a face section 2 used for striking a golf ball, a crown section 3 which constitutes a top face of the golf club head 1, a sole section 4 which constitutes the bottom face of the golf club head 1, a side section 8 which is extended from a toe side 5 to a heel side 7 via a back side 6 between the crown section 3 and the sole section 4 and a hosel section 9 on which a golf shaft is mounted." |
| a sole; | FIGS. 1-2 & 8 and Page 8, Lines 9-14 (same as above) |
| a striking plate; | FIGS. 1-2 & 8 and Page 8, Lines 9-14 (same as above) |

⁴ Applicants cite to Page and Line locations when citing to the certified English translation Applicants' priority application that was submitted on 24 March 2006.

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| a side section extending rearward of the striking plate and having toe, rear, and heel regions; | FIGS. 1-2 & 8 and Page 8, Lines 9-14 (same as above) |
| a top portion having an upper opening formed therein; | <p>FIGS 1-3 & 8 illustrate various golf club head embodiments with a top portion having an opening formed in the top portion.</p> <p>Page 10, Lines 14-18: “The present invention can be applied to the joining section of both members in any separation construction if the golf club head is produced by joining the metallic material member and the fiber reinforced resin material member together.”</p> |
| a shoulder disposed around a periphery of the upper opening; | <p>FIGS. 2, 4-6, and 13-14 illustrate a shoulder disposed around a periphery of an upper opening.</p> <p>Page 14, Lines 3-10: “As shown in FIG. 12(a), a desired metallic material is prepared and then, a face/sole integrated part 11 in which the hosel section 9, the face section 2 and the sole section 4 are formed integrally is obtained by forming a method selected appropriately from cutting, pressing, forging and casting by a machine tool. At this time, a joining face 15 is formed on a peripheral edge which is to be joined to the crown part 12, of the face/sole integrated part 11 as shown in FIG. 13(a). Further an oblique wall 38 is provided to construct one side of the groove 18 which is to be formed when the crown part 12 is joined to the joining face 15.”</p> |
| a ledge extending from the shoulder towards a center portion of the upper opening; | <p>FIGS. 8, 13-14 illustrate a ledge around golf club head top opening.</p> <p>Page 14, Lines 3-10: “As shown in FIG. 12(a), a desired metallic material is prepared and then, a face/sole integrated part 11 in which the hosel section 9, the face section 2 and the sole section 4 are formed integrally is obtained by forming a method selected appropriately from cutting, pressing, forging and casting by a machine tool. At this time, a joining face 15 is formed on a peripheral edge which is to be joined to the crown part 12, of the face/sole integrated part 11 as shown in FIG. 13(a). Further an oblique wall 38 is provided to construct one side of the groove 18 which is to be formed when the crown part 12 is joined to the joining face 15.”</p> |

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| <p>a crown coupled to the ledge and having a side edge, wherein the side edge of the crown is disposed proximate to the shoulder; and</p> | <p>FIGS. 5-6 and 12-14 illustrate crown coupled to a ledge and crown side edge proximate a shoulder</p> <p>Page 14, Lines 20-24: “At this time, the joining face 29, which is to be joined to the face/sole integrated part 11, is formed on the crown part 12 and further, an oblique wall 42, which constitutes one side of the groove 18 when the face/sole integrated part 11 is joined to the joining face, is provided adjacent to the joining face 29, as shown in FIG. 13(b).”</p> |
| <p>a veil disposed between the side edge of the crown and the shoulder.</p> | <p>FIGS. 3-6 and 13-14 illustrate a veil (joint material) disposed between crown side edge and shoulder.</p> <p>Page 9, Lines 1-11: “As for the structure of the joining section 13 of the golf club head 1 of this embodiment, as shown in FIGS. 3, 4 the adhesive agent 16 is sandwiched between a joining face 15 formed on the face/sole integrated part 11 and a joining face 29 formed on the crown part 12 and both the parts are joined together. Then, a groove 18 is provided entirely over a joint border line 25 which is a center line of the border between both the parts exposed on the outer surface of the golf club head 1 at the time of joining such that it is spread toward the outer surface of the aforementioned groove 18 is filled with joint material which is made of fiber reinforced resin material. Therefore, the joint material is embedded over both the face/sole integrated part 11 and the crown part 12 with respect to the joint border line 25 as the center.”</p> <p>Page 15, Lines 17-19: “After that, as shown in FIGS. 12 (d) and 13(d), the adhesive agent 45 is applied to the groove 18 and then, the joint material 39 is disposed on the adhesive agent 45” between crown side edge and shoulder.</p> |
| <p>9. The golf club head of claim 8, wherein at least one of the side edge of the crown and the shoulder are tapered.</p> | <p>FIGS. 4-6 and 13-14 illustrate tapered edges of a crown side edge and shoulder.</p> <p>Page 20, Lines 5-9 and 17-21 disclose tapered edges of a crown side edge and shoulder.</p> |

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| 10. The golf club head of claim 8, wherein both the side edge of the crown and the shoulder are tapered. | FIGS. 4-6 and 13-14 illustrate tapered edges of a crown side edge and shoulder. Page 20, Lines 5-9 and 17-21 discuss tapered edges of a crown side edge and shoulder. |
| 11. The golf club head of claim 10, wherein the side edge of the crown and the shoulder define an angle greater than about 90 degrees and less than about 180 degrees. | FIGS. 4-6 & 12-13 illustrate a spread angle between a crown side edge and a shoulder being between 90 and 180 degrees. Page 9, Line 16—Page 10, Line 4 discloses a groove have a spread angle in a V-shaped or U-shaped configurations, which are between 90 degrees and 180 degrees. |
| 12. The golf club head of claim 8, wherein the veil is comprised of a composite material. | Page 11, Lines 1-8 disclose that the veil (joint material) can be made from composite materials, e.g., glass, carbon, or metallic fibers. |
| 13. The golf club head of claim 8, wherein the crown is comprised of a first material and the veil is comprised of a second material. | Page 20, Lines 11-13 disclose that the crown can comprise carbon fibers (a first material) and Page 11, Lines 1-8 discloses that the veil (joint material) can comprise glass fibers (a second material). |
| 14. The golf club head of claim 13, wherein the first material is carbon fiber and the second material is glass. | Page 20, Lines 11-13 disclose that the crown can comprise carbon fibers (a first material) and Page 11, Lines 1-8 discloses that the veil (joint material) can comprise glass fibers (a second material). |
| 15. The golf club head of claim 8, wherein the crown and the veil are comprised of the same material. | Page 8, Lines 15-19 disclose that the crown part can be made of a fiber reinforced resin material and Page 9, Lines 8-9 disclose that the veil (joint material) can also be made of a fiber reinforced resin material. |
| 16. The golf club head of claim 8, wherein the veil covers an entire side edge of the crown. | FIGS. 3-6 & 13-14; Page 9, Lines 9-11; and Page 15, Lines 17-19 discloses that a veil (joint material) can cover and crown side edge. |
| 17. A wood-type golf club head comprising: | FIGS. 1-2 & 8 illustrate a wood-type golf club head Page 8, Lines 9-14: "As shown in FIGS. 1, the golf club head 1 of the present invention comprises a face section 2 used for striking a golf ball, a crown section 3 which constitutes a top face of the golf club head 1, a sole section 4 which constitutes the |

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| | bottom face of the golf club head 1, a side section 8 which is extended from a toe side 5 to a heel side 7 via a back side 6 between the crown section 3 and the sole section 4 and a hosel section 9 on which a golf shaft is mounted.” |
| a sole; | FIGS. 1-2 & 8 and Page 8, Lines 9-14 (same as above) |
| a striking plate; | FIGS. 1-2 & 8 and Page 8, Lines 9-14 (same as above) |
| a side section extending rearward of the striking plate and having toe, rear, and heel regions; | FIGS. 1-2 & 8 and Page 8, Lines 9-14 (same as above) |
| a top portion having an upper opening formed therein; | FIGS 1-3 & 8 illustrate various golf club head embodiments with a top portion having an opening formed in the top portion. Page 10, Lines 14-18: “The present invention can be applied to the joining section of both members in any separation construction if the golf club head is produced by joining the metallic material member and the fiber reinforced resin material member together.” |
| a shoulder disposed around a periphery of the upper opening; | FIGS. 2, 4-6, 13-14 Page 14, Lines 3-10: “As shown in FIG. 12(a), a desired metallic material is prepared and then, a face/sole integrated part 11 in which the hosel section 9, the face section 2 and the sole section 4 are formed integrally is obtained by forming a method selected appropriately from cutting, pressing, forging and casting by a machine tool. At this time, a joining face 15 is formed on a peripheral edge which is to be joined to the crown part 12, of the face/sole integrated part 11 as shown in FIG. 13(a). Further an oblique wall 38 is provided to construct one side of the groove 18 which is to be formed when the crown part 12 is joined to the joining face 15.” |
| a ledge extending from the shoulder towards a center portion of the upper opening; | FIGS. 8, 13-14 illustrate a ledge around golf club head top opening Page 14, Lines 3-10: “As shown in FIG. 12(a), a desired metallic material is prepared and then, a face/sole integrated part 11 in which the hosel section 9, the face section 2 and the sole section 4 are formed integrally is obtained by forming a method selected appropriately from cutting, |

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| | <p>pressing, forging and casting by a machine tool. At this time, a joining face 15 is formed on a peripheral edge which is to be joined to the crown part 12, of the face/sole integrated part 11 as shown in FIG. 13(a). Further an oblique wall 38 is provided to construct one side of the groove 18 which is to be formed when the crown part 12 is joined to the joining face 15.”</p> |
| <p>a crown coupled to the ledge and having a side edge, wherein the side edge of the crown is disposed proximate to the shoulder, thereby forming an obtuse depression therebetween; and</p> | <p>FIGS. 5-6 and 12-14 illustrate crown coupled to a ledge and crown side edge proximate a shoulder and an obtuse (between 90 degrees and 180 degrees) depression (groove) formed between the shoulder and the crown side edge.</p> <p>Page 14, Lines 20-24: “At this time, the joining face 29, which is to be joined to the face/sole integrated part 11, is formed on the crown part 12 and further, an oblique wall 42, which constitutes one side of the groove 18 when the face/sole integrated part 11 is joined to the joining face, is provided adjacent to the joining face 29, as shown in FIG. 13(b).”</p> |
| <p>a means for filling at least a portion of the obtuse depression and preventing cracking and peeling of a club head surface layer.</p> | <p>FIGS. 4-6 & 12-14, and Page 9, Lines 4–12 disclose a veil (joint material) disposed between a side edge of the crown and the shoulder. As discussed throughout the Applicants’ priority application the veil (joint material) is used to strengthen a bond between the crown and the shoulder to prevent occurrence of deviation, gap and crevices thereby preventing cracking and peeling of a club head surface layer. <i>See, e.g.,</i> Page 5, Lines 7-12 and Page 23, Line 7—Page 24, Line 15.</p> |

III. Response to the 10 April 2006 Office Action

Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 8-17 pending in the Present Application are in condition for allowance in light of the ‘270 Application’s prosecution history. Since Claims 8-17 are identical to Claims 20-28 and 37 of the ‘270 Application, and Claims 20-28 and 37 were recently allowed in the ‘270 Application, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 8-17 are also allowable for the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections to Claims 8-17 be withdrawn.

Should the Examiner continue to assert that Claims 8-17 are not allowable, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner (or other appropriate USPTO official) to withdraw the *Notice of Allowance* recently issued for the '270 Application. Both applications have identical claim language for Claims 8-17 so these claims should receive the same examination analysis by the USPTO. Thus, Applicants seek equal treatment from the Examiner in light of the '270 Application's prosecution history and request that the USPTO act consistent with respect to both the Present Application and the '270 Application.

IV. Fees & Conclusion

Applicants submit this response within three months of the 10 April 2006 *Office Action* and with no additional claims. Thus, Applicants believe that no fees are due. If any fees are deemed due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any due fees, or credit any fee over payment, to Deposit Account 20-1507.

By the present *Response To Office Action With 37 C.F.R. § 41.202 Interference Request*, Applicants fully respond to the 10 April 2006 *Office Action* and request an Interference Proceeding be initiated. Alternatively, the Application has been in placed in full condition for allowance for the same reasons the '270 Application has been allowed. Should the Examiner have any further questions or reservations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned Attorney at 404.885.3622.

Respectfully submitted,

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